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# VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S  
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 10 NO. 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2007

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley  
observes

## National Freedom to Marry Day

Court House Action - February 9  
Service, Reception & Dance  
- February 10 -

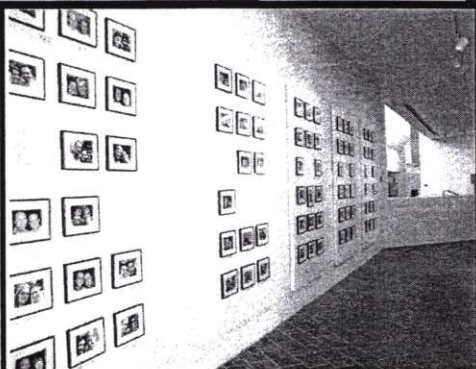


**BE PART OF MCC'S  
FREEDOM TO MARRY  
COURT HOUSE ACTION**  
SEE PAGE 5.

## VGP'S 2006 HALL OF FAME (AND HALL OF SHAME)

WHO GETS  
ROSES FOR THE  
GREAT GLBT  
WORK THEY  
DID THIS YEAR,  
AND  
WHO GETS  
RASPBERRIES?

SEE PAGE 11.



## PHOTO PROJECT - 100 COUPLES AT MUHLENBERG COLLEGE JAN 16 - FEB 7 RECEPTION FEB 7

The PA Diversity Network Photo Project - 100 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality will be on display in the Galleria at Muhlenberg College in the Baker Center for the Arts from January 16 to February 7. The Baker Center for the Arts is at 2400 Chew Street in Allentown. A special reception for the show will be Wednesday, February 7, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, there is no admission charge. The public and especially the couples in the project, are invited. This showing of the Photo Project is held in collaboration with the College's student Gay/Straight Alliance. Read more about this show on page 5.

Academy Awards Bash  
to Benefit Pride GLV

Sunday, February 25

Diamonz Nightclub & Restaurant  
1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

7PM- Midnight

Scrumptious Buffet & 2 Free Drinks!  
Multi screen BIG screen viewing!  
Silent Auction- Door Prizes- 50/50 Raffle!  
Fill out your ballot and win CASH!!!  
All for \$25.00

Call 610-865-1028 to reserve your table.

Sponsored by Diamonz Nightclub  
and Gaydar Magazine



## NEW JERSEY PASSES CIVIL UNIONS!

AND YES, YOU CAN GET ONE EVEN  
IF YOU LIVE IN PA. READ HOW TO  
DO IT, AND WHAT NJ CIVIL UNIONS  
MEAN TO PA SAME-SEX COUPLES IN  
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT, ON PAGE 2.

  
**GLBT Infoline**  
Greater Lehigh Valley 

**610-HELP-123**

(610-435-7123)

**DEMOCRATS  
TAKE CONTROL  
OF PA STATE  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES  
BY JUST 23 VOTES  
IN CHESTER COUNTY.  
READ HOW PA-GALA  
HELPED ACHIEVE  
THIS SIGNIFICANT SHIFT.**

See page 7.

**BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.**



## What's That About?



Readers write or email  
"What's That About?"  
editor Liz Bradbury with  
questions about GLBT issues.



### What's That About Civil Unions in New Jersey?????

Since Civil Unions are not currently recognized in Pennsylvania, getting a Civil Union with your partner isn't going to bring you the kind of rights New Jersey same-sex couples will get. In New Jersey, it will bring all the New Jersey state rights of marriage to unioned couples. But since Civil Unions are not portable from state to state, PA couples will not be able to carry these rights back to PA.

However, if you live in PA but work in New Jersey (or if there is ever a chance that you may), get a Civil Union, because your New Jersey company will have to extend spousal health benefits to your unioned partner. If you need the state tax protection of marriage, you could always move to New Jersey when necessary.

The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights suggests that it is possible PA may recognize NJ Civil Unions here, someday. It would have to be passed by the legislature, but the PA DOMA law does not disallow Civil Unions, it only disallows the recognition of same-sex marriage.

Vermont and Connecticut Civil Unions will be recognized by NJ, but some activists believe it will be safest to get a NJ Union, even if you have one from another state. It only costs \$28 dollars and you will be covered right away. Trish and I will get one soon, and we'll write more about it when we do.

If you are a PA long term committed couple, by all means get a NJ Civil Union, it is a very visible legal commitment, which may get some recognition in PA. But do not get a NJ Civil Union unless you are sure you are a committed long term couple. Because to get out of it, you will have to get a divorce in the same complicated way opposite couples get divorces in NJ.

**Here are some answers to some common questions about New Jersey Civil Unions.** (Thanks to the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philly and Garden State Equality in New Jersey for much of this information.)

#### 1. When does the civil unions law go into effect?

**\*\* Monday, February 19, 2007 is the first day you will be allowed to obtain a civil union license.** New Jersey law mandates a 72-hour waiting period between getting the license and actually getting civil unioned, equal to the waiting period before getting married. Therefore, if you obtain your civil union license on Monday, February 19, 2007, the earliest you can get civil unioned is Thursday, February 22, 2007. Please note that Monday, February 19, 2007 is a state holiday, so likely you will first be able to obtain a civil union license on Tuesday, February 20, 2007, and first be able to get civil unioned on Friday, February 23, 2007.

#### 2. We don't live in New Jersey but we want to get a civil union in New Jersey. Can we?

**\*\*Yes, you can.** New Jersey does not have a residency requirement for either marriages or civil unions. If you are not residents of New Jersey, pick up a civil union license in the municipality in which your civil union will take place. The ceremony can be conducted by any clergy member in New Jersey or any of the government officials listed in question 3 below.

#### 3. What are the mechanics of getting a civil union?

**\*\*If you're a New Jersey couple or one of you lives in New**

2

## SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



### NEWYORKONTHECHEAP

One thing I have learned in my time here in the City is the Big Apple can take a big bite of out a guy's paycheck. When I think of what my monthly rent could get me back in Allentown...darn. There are some ways to get around the high prices. Did you know most museums in New York have a free night? Check out the websites of the Whitney or the Frick Collection before coming into the city and you could save yourself some money.

I discovered Juilliard students give free concerts at Alice Tully Hall. They are held on Wednesdays at one o'clock, hence the name "Wednesdays at One." At Alice Tully, the balcony is at street level and the orchestra is downstairs. I went to listen with some folks who don't do stairs, so we sat in the balcony.

Behind us was a group of students. Across the aisle I saw a mother trying to control four children all under the age of three. As I sat down I felt the student behind me kicking the back of my seat. One of them was quietly snoring. Another student started ripping the concert program into little pieces. Then he said "gotta go bathroom. Gotta go bathroom. Gotta go bathroom." "This is a concert," said the usher to the chaperone. "We understand that," said the chaperone who was in over her head. On the other side of the aisle the toddlers were way too young to appreciate the concert.

The usher finally got them to leave. (She did a great job actually.) The piano concert finally ended and I was able to leave the balcony of the damned. I have been back three times since then but no visit was as memorable as that first one.

Jersey, you may pick up a civil union license in the municipality in which you live. Go to your city hall, township hall, village hall or borough hall during business hours. **If neither of you live in New Jersey, pick up a civil union license in the municipality in which your civil union will take place.**

Again, as with marriages, New Jersey has a 72-hour waiting period between the time you get your license and the time you go through with your civil union. Once you pick up your civil union license, the license is good for 30 calendar days, bring two blank checks with you. One check you'll make out for \$25 and the other check for \$3, for \$28 in fees together, the same fees as for marriage. Once you've waited the 72 hours after you get your license, you can have your ceremony. It can be as simple and private as you like, or not. You will need one witness 18 years or older, who is neither you nor your partner, nor your officiant.

Your civil union may be conducted by a clergy member in New Jersey (or registering officer if you are a Quaker) or by the following government officials: A federal, state or municipal judge whose jurisdiction is, or includes, New Jersey; or a county surrogate, county clerk, mayor, deputy mayor if authorized by the mayor, or the head of a municipal council. If you don't personally know a clergy person or government official, call or visit your municipal hall well in advance to confirm there is an officer available who performs civil unions.

As you may have read, a few mayors have stated they will not perform civil unions. Those mayors could be violating the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and may be subject to heavy fines. Should you run into this from any government official, please contact Garden State Equality, New Jersey's statewide LGBT advocacy organization immediately at (973) GSE-LGBT or Contact@GardenStateEquality.org.

After your ceremony, you or your officiant have 5 calendar days to send your civil union license and certificate to the local registrar or clerk of the county board of health.

**4. What if we're domestic-partnered in New Jersey? Do we have to do anything to end our domestic partnership before we get a civil union? (Continued on page 3- middle column.)**

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



## HOT NEWS

### HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

**HAVEN MEETINGS** : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino ,havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at [www.uucvpa.org/haven](http://www.uucvpa.org/haven).

### GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

During the cold months GLOSS offers bowling, racquetball and Pinochle. The schedule is as follows:

**Bowling**: the 2nd Friday of the month, starting at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown.

**Pinochle**: the 1st Saturday of the month, starting at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 N. 10th St., Allentown.

**Racquetball**: every Thursday and Saturday, starting at 7:00pm at the Allentown Racquet Club.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website: [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org), or email: [Info@gloss.org](mailto:Info@gloss.org).

### CENTER CHANGES ITS NAME

At its 10th Anniversary event in May the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia, announced that it is changing its name to Equality Advocates Pennsylvania.

### NEW JERSEY HAS ADDED GENDER IDENTITY TO ITS STATE WIDE NON-DISCRIMINATION LAW

### RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

### WHAT'S THAT ABOUT CONTINUED

No, you don't have to do anything to end your existing domestic partnership. According to the new civil union law, when you get a civil union, your domestic partnership is automatically superseded by the civil union. If you and your partner choose not to get a civil union but instead prefer to stay with the far fewer protections of your existing domestic partnership, your domestic partnership will be unaffected.

For same-sex couples, once the civil unions law takes effect, only civil unions and not domestic partnerships will be available. As you may remember, New Jersey's domestic partnership law enacted in 2004 also allows opposite-sex couples older than 62 to register as domestic partners. Such opposite-sex couples will still be able to register as domestic partners, even after the civil unions law takes effect.

**5. If a clergy member performs our civil union in a religious ceremony in New Jersey, can the clergy member call it a marriage or a wedding, or refer to us at the ceremony as spouses?**

You, and your clergy member or other officiant, can use whatever terminology you'd like for the ceremony. It is, after all, your ceremony. But to be clear, the maximum legal protection you would get in New Jersey is that of a civil union, not a marriage.

**6. My partner is not a U.S. citizen but I am. If we get a civil union in New Jersey, will my partner be able to come live in the United States?**

No, immigration is totally governed by US federal law, which does not recognize same-sex relationships, whether marriages, civil unions or domestic partnerships.

### TRANSGENDER SUPPORT

Lehigh Valley Renaissance is a fully chartered chapter of the National Renaissance Transgender Organization. Meetings are open to all persons identifying as Transgender whether you are a crossdresser or in gender transition, MtF or FtM - L.V. Renaissance is there to provide support. Meetings are held in the MCC Church at Merchants Square Mall, the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 pm Join in and help put the "T" in GLBT !! For inquiries or further information - on the web - [www.geocities.com/lvrenaissance](http://www.geocities.com/lvrenaissance) or email [lvrenaissance@yahoo.com](mailto:lvrenaissance@yahoo.com)

### MLK SERVICE AT MCC

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley Observes Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. January 14 -- MCCLV observes Rev. Martin Luther King Day at both worship services on Sunday, January 14. A special choral reading of King's "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" will be presented at both the 10am and 6:00pm worship services. For driving directions see [www.mcclv.org](http://www.mcclv.org).

### 19TH ST MOVIES

All of these films are in the 500-seat 19th Street Theatre, at 527 N. 19th Street, Allentown

**For Your Consideration** - Dec. 18-31: From Christopher Guest, the director of Waiting for Guffman and Best in Show, "For Your Consideration" is an uproarious Hollywood satire about the Oscars.

**The 2006 Academy Award Nominated Short Films** - Jan. 1 only: Two separate collections -- an animated festival and another for live-action shorts.

**Off the Black** - Jan. 2-7: Ray, an aging, divorced, high school umpire makes grandiose video diaries. David agrees to go to Ray's fortieth high school reunion and pretend to be his son.

**The History Boys** - Jan. 6-14: An unruly class of gifted and charming teenage boys in rigorous pursuit of sex, sport, and higher education.

**Come Early Morning** - Jan. 13-21: Starring Ashley Judd. Joey Lauren Adams makes her writing and directorial debut with Come Early Morning, a beautifully rendered film about a Southern woman in a small town.

**The Last King of Scotland** - Jan. 20-28: Forest Whitaker gives a ferocious performance as bloodthirsty Ugandan president Idi Amin, for which he has won the New York Film Critics Circle and LA Film Critics awards and been nominated for a Golden Globe.

**Volver** - Jan. 27 - Feb. 4: Director Pedro Almodóvar. After her death, a mother returns to her home town in order to fix the situations she couldn't resolve during her life.

**The Aura** - Feb. 3-9: A shy taxidermist struggles with epilepsy and secretly dreams of executing the perfect robbery.

**Out of Sight** - Feb. 11 only: - Presented by the Allentown Jewish Community Center's Jewish & Israeli Film Series - A 24 years old doctoral student travels to Israel when her cousin commits suicide.

**Our Daily Bread** - Feb. 11-14: Industrial food production and high-tech farming.

**Iraq in Fragments** - Feb. 15-17: Documentary illuminates post-war Iraq.



## READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org) or e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org).

The February 20 meeting will have a presentation by Berks Women In Crisis on the topic "Domestic Violence: Same Sex Partners (male and female)"

## BERKS GSA

READING-BERKS GAY/STRAIGHT STUDENT ALLIANCE MEETINGS are held the second Monday of each month from 4:30 - 6:00PM at Atonement Lutheran Church Parish Center, Penn Avenue & Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing (accessible by bus - BARTA route 14W). Meetings are open to any interested students. For information, e-mail [RBGSSA@hotmail.com](mailto:RBGSSA@hotmail.com).

## PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org). e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org). Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail [pflagpottsville@hotmail.com](mailto:pflagpottsville@hotmail.com). Meeting Dates: Allentown: January 2, February 6, March 6. Monroe: January 17, March 21. Reading: January 16, February 20, March 20

## GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually. The next GLORA events are: **Sunday, February 4** -- Super Bowl Party - gather at 5pm. Bring a dish to share. Contact GLORA for directions.. Web site: <http://glora.1colony.com> email: [GLORA@dejazzd.com](mailto:GLORA@dejazzd.com) or write: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435.

## BERKS GAY MEN'S GROUP

BCGMSG holds social events for singles and couples two to three times a month for gay men from Berks County and surrounding counties. For more info email [berksgmsg@aol.com](mailto:berksgmsg@aol.com), web site at: [WWW.BERKSGMSG.COM](http://WWW.BERKSGMSG.COM).

## PHOTO PROJECT ON TV NEWS

Channel 69 TV News interviewed PDN's Liz Bradbury and Patricia Sullivan about the passage of NJ Civil Unions with about 80 of the PDN Photo Project photos displayed on the wall behind them. Several of the photos appeared briefly on camera. The interview may have also been shown on channel 6 news.

## SYLVIA COMICS

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! For more check the Sylvia website: [www.nicolehollander.com](http://www.nicolehollander.com).

## PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 16 to February 7** -- exhibition of the PDN Photo Project -- 100 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality at Muhlenberg College's Galleria.

**February 7** -- Gallery Reception for Photo Show - 4:30pm to 6:30pm.

**February 9-10 2007** - PDN will participate in MCC's Freedom to Marry Day Court House Action and Celebration.

**Mid June 2007** -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Parade and Festival.

**Mid July 2007** -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Pride Festival.

**Mid October** -- Bingo!

**Mid October 2007** -- PDN will have a team in the Woman's 5k Race to fight Breast Cancer, and will host a brunch afterward at the PDN offices.

**November 16-17-18, 2007** -- PDN Holiday Art & Craft Show

**Mid December 2007** -- Rainbow Families Holiday Party for GLBTA families with children.

If you would like to volunteer with PA Diversity Network and the Valley Gay Press, please contact PDN at [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org) or 610-432-5449.

## LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Planned Parenthood of North East Pennsylvania (PPNEP) founded Spectrum thanks to a grant by the Diversity Alliance Fund of Berks County Community Foundation. Since its inception in June, the number of teens attending Spectrum's meetings has grown exponentially.

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evenings from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading medial center.

Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

## SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER





# SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneringer

## ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS 2006

peace on earth (that does NOT go without saying in these times, unfortunately)...for Bianca to get a girlfriend on "All My Children" (even if she is named "Zarf")...for Kevin to get a boyfriend on "Brothers & Sisters" (or at least get laid as often as everyone else in his family does)...for professional athletes to stop being such "sissies" when it comes to the entire question of sexuality... for Congress to show some spine in the next term and issue indictments for all the war criminals of the Bush Administration (that's pretty much everybody in his administration, isn't it?)...for Jeff Garcia (is he or isn't he, who cares?) and the Eagles to pummel Dallas on Christmas Day and keep TO out of the end zone in doing so...a three-picture deal and / or my own primetime cable show (isn't it time for a lesbian detective on TV, I mean, really??)...did I mention peace on earth?...an agent...a personal chef, masseuse and trainer...an Oscar for Helen Mirren...tickets to see THE COLOR PURPLE...a new car (hybrid, of course / what else would any self-respecting "secular progressive" drive??)...Air America and Stephanie Miller to land on an AM station I can actually get in my car...to sell a spec script to ER so I can meet Maura Tierney and Laura Innes (before she leaves the show)...a nice, long vacation with Marilyn...a hot poker machine when we join Chris and 'Nae for a trip to AC for our birthdays in January...and, of course, friggin' peace on this friggin' earth!

The ADVOCATE picked Bill Maher as Person of the Year. Not exactly where I'd go right out of the gate but certainly a better choice than TIME Magazine's! I think Bill's right on our issues, right on the environment, right on almost all things political...I also think he's got some issues with women (and not because he's single!). And, lest we forget, no one even had a clue who Ann Coulter was before he put her on his show.

So long for now...Robert Altman (genius); Betty Friedan (guts and glory); Shelly Winters (best autobiography, not to mention a damn good actor); June Allyson (a favorite of my youth); and last, but certainly not least, Elizabeth Louise McLean, or "Betty Lou," as most people knew her...teacher to hundreds, probably thousands of wannabe actors, mentor to a special few of us and any others who asked, creative giant in the Reading / Berks community for half a century, and friend for thirty + years...I can't imagine the world, OR this Christmas, without you. Thanks for your love and support... Have a very merry and a FABULOUS 2007!!!

## MCCS NATIONAL FREEDOM TO MARRY 2007-

Co-sponsors: PFLAG, Pennsylvania Diversity Network, Renaissance. Same-Sex Couples are needed. Please consider participating in these history-making events.

Friday, February 9, 2007 - 10 a.m. Marriage License applications at the Lehigh County Courthouse, 5th & Hamilton Streets, Allentown. Same-sex couples are needed to apply for marriage licenses. Couples are asked to have been together for at least one year and be okay with media coverage. You will be denied a license but will have taken a stand for social justice. Couples must bring the following: A Social Security card and a photo driver's license or photo ID. If a non-U.S. citizen, a green card, passport or birth certificate in addition to photo ID. - If divorced, a certified copy of the divorce decree. - If widowed, a copy of the death certificate, published obituary, published funeral notice or funeral card is required.

## 5 PHOTO SHOW MUHLENBERG PRESS RELEASE

The PA Diversity Network (PDN) Photo Project -100 Same Sex Couples: Facing Inequality will be exhibited in the Muhlenberg College Galleria Gallery in the Baker Center for the Arts from January 16 to February 7. A show reception is planned for Tuesday, February 7 from 4:30 to 6:30pm in the Galleria.

Photos of 100 plus (130 so far) local same-sex couples serve to remind the mainstream public of the discrimination and inequality the gay community will experience if proposed anti-same-sex relationship amendments to the State and Federal Constitutions are successful.

Project coordinator and photographer Liz Bradbury began this photo project in February 2006. Bradbury, who is the Executive Director of PA Diversity Network and who holds Bachelors of Fine Art and Masters of Fine Art degrees, decided to provide a way to show the entire community that many committed long term same-sex couples are living right here in the Lehigh Valley. "In every venue we've exhibited these photos, viewers have recognized people they know and learned how these friends, neighbors and colleagues have to endure the lack of civil rights that the rest of the population takes for granted."

"PDN is grateful to Muhlenberg College for this outstanding opportunity to show this important project to the community, and to have Muhlenberg's Gay/Straight Alliance supporting this show," says Bradbury, "Muhlenberg has an excellent non-discrimination policy and supports same-sex relationships by offering domestic partnership benefits to its employees. More corporations should follow the lead of fair-minded institutions like Muhlenberg."

This showing is in collaboration with Muhlenberg's student Gay/Straight Alliance. Adrian Shanker, GSA Boardmember states, "The Muhlenberg GSA is proud to support this photography exhibit, the more people who are able to put a physical face to the politics of a loving committed gay relationship, the less power homophobia will have in limiting the rights of gay partners."

More committed couples wishing to participate in the project are welcome. To participate contact PA Diversity Network at: 610-432-5449, info@padiversity.org.

-- \$35 in cash. No checks or credit cards. Non-refundable!

-- If a same-sex couple does not want to pay the filing fee, you may: Enter the Marriage License office, share that you are a same-sex couple, ask if you will receive a license (the clerk will say "no") and then say, "see you next year." -- Couples who spend the money to file will be a part of the historical record. The growing file of denials of marriage licenses for same-sex couples is a concrete statement that we exist, we want equal rights and that we are being denied those rights.

All supporters of marriage equality are asked to gather at the Courthouse to celebrate the value of gay and lesbian families!

Saturday, February 10, 2007 Freedom to Marry Day Interfaith Worship Service, Reception and Dance, 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church LV, 12th & Vultee Sts, Allentown. This special worship service includes clergy from a variety of faith traditions offering a same-sex marriage ceremony and blessing of relationships. Reception and dance to follow.

Same-Sex Couples are needed to participate in a special marriage ceremony on Saturday, February 10. Requirements: Couple together for at least one year and a meeting at the church. This is a very moving and sacred setting for you to exchange your vows. You and your family and friends would be provided with a free reception and will be married by over a dozen clergy. To participate contact MCCLV asap: info@mcclv.org or 610-709-8800. To help with the event planning, attend the next planning meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, January 23 at 7 p.m. at MCCLV.



# 6 CALENDAR

**Am Haskalah**, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

**ACCO-A Chorus** Celebrating Women, **AIDS Outreach**-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

**AIDSWALK**- see **FACT**

**ASC-AIDS Service Center** 610.974.8701

**BGMMSG** - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group - singles and couples social events [berksgmsg@aol.com](mailto:berksgmsg@aol.com)

**BMA**- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

**CIVIC** and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <[civictheater.com](mailto:civictheater.com)>

**CUUPS** - Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. [uucv\\_cuups@yahoo.com](mailto:uucv_cuups@yahoo.com)

**Enigma Players** - [qacres@prolog.net](mailto:qacres@prolog.net)

**equal@agere** - email: [equal@agere.com](mailto:equal@agere.com)

**FACT**- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

**GaydarMagazine** - [www.gaydarmagazine.com](http://www.gaydarmagazine.com)

**GLEE** at Air Products

**GLISN** - at Dun & Bradstreet, <[vagrathollow.com/GLISN/](mailto:vagrathollow.com/GLISN/)>

**GLORA** - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown [www.glora.1colony.com](http://www.glora.1colony.com), [glora@dejazzed.com](mailto:glora@dejazzed.com)

**GLOSS** - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org) Info @ [gloss.org](mailto:gloss.org)

**GLW** - at PPL

**HAVEN GLBT Youth Group** of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: [havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com)

**HMFF**-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

**Integrity**- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 [gamba.guy@verizon.net](mailto:gamba.guy@verizon.net)

**Infoline** - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)

**INTERWEAVE** - GLBTAI group at the UUCLV. 3rd Sundays.. Interweave, UUCLV@[yahodgroups.com](mailto:yahodgroups.com). [www.uucvpa.org](http://www.uucvpa.org) 610-866-7652

**LVGMC** - Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: [info@lvgmc.org](mailto:info@lvgmc.org), <[www.lvgmc.org](http://www.lvgmc.org)> 610-366-3320, [rehearsals:Tues-Wesley](mailto:rehearsals:Tues-Wesley) United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St. Bethlehem

**Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition**- 610-610-997-0976, [humanrights4all@aol.com](mailto:humanrights4all@aol.com), 610-814-0530 [JamesHalleman@aol.com](mailto:JamesHalleman@aol.com)

**MCC** - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, [mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com), <http://www.mcciv.org> 610-709-8800

**Muhlenberg GSA** Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

**NCC** - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

**19th St & Civic Theatre** - 610.432.8943

**Out There**- Students at Cedar Crest College

**PA-Diversity Network**- 610-432-5449 [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org) PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002

**PA-GALA** - Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 [www.pa-gala.org](http://www.pa-gala.org)

**PARENTS**- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 [www.eastern-pa-plag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-plag.org)

## JANUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC	2 RAA 19th St. Movie	3 LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM	5 RAA GLOSS	6 19th St. Movie	7 GLOSS WDIY
8 WDIY HMFF GLOSS	9 BERKS GSA RAA 19th St. Movie	10 LVGMC	11 HAVEN SPECTRUM	12 RAA GLOSS	13 19th St. Movie	14 GLOSS MCC MLK WDIY
15 MCC GLOSS WDIY HMFF UUCV MCC	16 RAA 19th St. Movie	17 R PFLAG LVGMC	18 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM	19 GLOSS P PFLAG CIVIC PLAY TO PLAY	20 19th St. Movie	21 WDIY GLOSS 9th St. Movie
22 GLOSS UUCV Interweave	23 RAA 19th St. Movie	24 LVGMC	25 HAVEN SPECTRUM	26 RAA GLOSS LVGMC 19th St. Movie	27 19th St. Movie	28 WDIY GLOSS
29 WDIY HMFF GLOSS MCC	30 RAA	31 LVGMC	SPECTRUM HAVEN	GLOSS RAA PDN Photo Project		

## FEBRUARY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		PDN Photo Project		1 RAA GLOSS 19th St. Movie	2 19th St. Movie	3 WDIY GLOSS 19th St. Movie
4 GLOSS SUG MCC HMFF	5 RAA PDN Photo Project	6 LVGMC LV PFLAG	7 HAVEN RECEPT SPECTRUM	8 19th St. Movie	9 MCC FTMD TO PLAY	10 GLOSS WDIY MLK MCC FTMD
11 WDIY GLOSS MCC HMFF 19th St. Movie	12 RAA BERKS GSA	13 LVGMC 19th St. Movie	14 HAVEN SPECTRUM	15 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	16 TO PLAY	17 WDIY GLOSS TO PLAY
18 MCC WDIY UUCV GLOSS TO PLAY	19 RAA	20 LVGMC R PFLAG	21 HAVEN SPECTRUM	22 RAA GLOSS	23	24 WDIY GLOSS
25 GLOSS HMFF MCC UUCV PRIDE BEN	26 RAA	27 LVGMC	28 HAVEN SPECTRUM			

## MARCH 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 GLOSS RAA	2	3 WDIY GLOSS
4	5 RAA 19th St. Movie	6 LV PFLAG LVGMC	7 HAVEN SPECTRUM	8 GLOSS RAA	9	10 WDIY GLOSS
11 WDIY GLOSS HMFF	12 RAA	13 LVGMC	14 HAVEN SPECTRUM	15 RAA GLOSS	16	17 GLOSS WDIY
18 Interweave GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCV	19 RAA	20 R PFLAG LVGMC	21 HAVEN SPECTRUM M PFLAG	22 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	23	24 LVGMC WDIY GLOSS
25 MCC Services	26 RAA	27 LVGMC	28 HAVEN SPECTRUM	29 GLOSS RAA	30	31 WDIY GLOSS



**PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays**, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org)

**Pride** - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>

**Progressive Students Alliance** - [www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpas.htm](http://www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpas.htm)

**QuEST** - Student group at Lafayette College, Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

**RAA** - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

**Rainbow Families** - donniearluacas@msn.com  
**Ren** - Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCLCLV [renlv.org](http://renlv.org)

**Reading P-FLAG** 610-967-5219

**Safe Space** At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

**Temple Sophia**, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coal Dale 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

**T.O.** - Theatre Outlet, Allentown, 610-820-9270.  
**UUCLV** - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

**VGP** - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, [VGP@padiversity.org](http://VGP@padiversity.org) VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

**Wachovia-GALEA** - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com  
**WDIY** - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm, 8100.88.

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

**RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS**  
**BERKS GSA - 2ND MONS**  
**LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS**  
**LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS**  
**READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES**  
**LV HAVEN - WEDS**  
**READING HAVEN - WEDS**  
**MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS**  
**JAN, MAR, JUN, SEPT, DEC ONLY**  
**POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS**  
**GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT**  
**GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI**  
**GLOSS PINOCCHIO - 1ST SAT**  
**RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT**  
**INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS**

**JAN 1 - SHORT FILMS**  
**JAN 1-7 - OFF THE BLACK**  
**JAN 6-14 - 19TH ST MOVIE**  
**JAN 13-21 - 19TH ST MOVIE**  
**JAN 14 - MCLV MLK SERVICE**  
**JAN 16-FEB 7 - PHOTO SHOW**  
**JAN 18-29 - STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**  
**JAN 20 - TO/PRIDE BENEFIT**  
**JAN 19-21 - 'VINEGAR TOM'**  
**JAN 20-26 - 19TH ST MOVIE**  
**JAN 26-27 - LVGMC**  
**JAN 27-FEB 4 - 19TH ST MOVIE**  
**FEB 3-9 - 19TH ST MOVIE**  
**FEB 4 - GLORA SUPERBOWL**  
**FEB 7 - PDN RECEPTION**  
**FEB 8-18 - BLOODY POETRY**  
**FEB 9 - MCC FTMD**  
**FEB 10 - MCC FTMD**  
**FEB 11 - OUT OF SIGHT**  
**FEB 11-14 - 19TH ST MOVIE**  
**FEB 25 - PRIDE BENEFIT**  
**MAR 24 - LVGMC**  
**JUL 15 - READING PRIDE**

**INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**  
**TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449**  
**INFO@PADIVERSITY.ORG**

## DEMS TAKE HOUSE IN HARRISBURG BY ONE REP ELECTED BY 23 GLBTA VOTES?

Why does this matter? Because now the Democrats control the committees and what legislation comes out of them for votes. The committee that pushed the anti-marriage Constitutional Amendment was controlled by a very conservative anti-gay Representative before, now it is chaired by Rep. Babette Josephs, one of the GLBT community's best friends in the legislature. Of course we can't let our guard down, but the chance of a Constitutional Amendment coming up in 2007 under Republican control would have been 100%, now the chances are significantly decreased.

Further more, the civil rights bill that would protect us state-wide against employment and housing discrimination had been held back in committee by Republicans for years, now the chances of the passage of a state civil rights (ENDA style) bill coming up are much better.

Did this happen as a result of GLBTA votes?

While the National GLBT organizations and other GLBT state-wide groups focused on the Casey/Santorum race, which was turning out to be a sure thing, PA-GALA political director Steve Black tried to encourage at least some of their attention on PA State House races. Steve told this reporter a month or two before the election that he thought the Democrats could take

the State House of Representatives if key races were targeted. He hoped that national organizations or other state wide groups would support this, but little action in this area was taken by them.

Steve worked on a plan for PA-GALA to highlight three races. One was the Barbara McIlvaine Smith (D) / Shannon Royer (R) race in Chester County. And it was that race, that was won by Smith by just 23 votes, that turned the tide in Harrisburg. Steve sent a strong informational mailing to hundreds of GLBTA voters on PA-GALA's list in Chester County about the race, urging people to vote for Smith. If just 12 votes were swayed by Steve's mailing -- which is likely, then the race may very well have been won by GLBTA votes.

Steve Black told VGP that he hopes our community remembers that mailings cost money, and that PA-GALA puts every donation and membership to very good use. Unlike national GLBT organizations, everyone at PA-GALA is a volunteer.

23 votes! Don't ever let anyone convince you that your vote or your contribution doesn't count!

**THE CORRECT EMAIL FOR  
READING PRIDE IS:  
RDGPRIDE@AOL.COM  
CONTACT THEM  
TO HELP PLAN THE  
READING PRIDE FESTIVAL**

## RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY PROGNOSTICATIONS & FUNDRAISERS

The fashionistas and bookies will be joining the rest of us on Sunday, February 25 as we watch Tinseltown's annual backpatting ceremony. The Academy Awards boasts 1 billion viewers worldwide. There will be a fashion faux pas splashed across the cover of People Magazine and The Star and most winners will fade from the ordinary Joe's memory in less than a week, but we will still watch. Will host Ellen DeGeneres deliver the goods as she did at the Emmys in 2001? (my guess is yes) Will Helen Mirren be leaving with a little bald man known best as Oscar? (a resounding yes) Will Lindsay Lohan and Co. wear undies? (If they are invited, my guess is no. you can take the girl out of the trash but you can't take...well, you know the rest.)

On to the awards. The nominees will be announced Tues, Jan 23. Since I am not above looking foolish here are my guesses for the nominations. **Likely winners are in BOLD...**

**Best Picture:** Letters From Iwo Jima, The Departed, The Queen, Dreamgirls, Babel, Flight 93. If the notoriously stuffy Academy voters had a sense of humor Borat would be a contender. Don't count on it.

**Best Actor:** Leonardo DiCaprio, Peter O'Toole, **Forest Whitaker**, Will Smith, Sacha Cohen. Whitaker has swept every other award for his portrayal of President Idi Amin. Cohen is award worthy for pointing the lens back on ourselves in a hilarious manner.

**Best Actress:** Meryl Streep, Penelope Cruz, Judy Dench, **Helen Mirren**, Toni Colette, Kate Winslet. In another year this may have belonged to Cruz, but with every other group's award on her shelf, it's Mirren's year. **Best Supporting Actor:** Ben Affleck, Brad Pitt, **Eddie Murphy**, Jack Nicholson, Adam Beach. The comeback kid vs the pretty boy vs the never nominated veteran vs the always nominated pro vs the newcomer. Possibly the toughest race of the night to call. **Best Supporting Actress:** Cate Blanchett, Emily Blunt, **Jennifer Hudson**, Adranna Barraza, Lily Tomlin. I loved Blunt in Prada, but Hudson has the pipes and is the one to beat. **Best Director:** **Martin Scorsese**, Clint Eastwood, Alejandro Inarritu, Pedro Almodovar, Bill Condon.

Don't be surprised to see Mel Gibson or Robert Altman's names here as well. Hollywoodland loves to forgive its own and honor the dead. If it isn't Scorsese, look for Eastwood to take his third statue. Don't forget the Academy Awards Bash to benefit PRIDE GLV at Diamondz Nightclub on Sunday Feb 25.

Also mark your calendar for the Saturday, Jan 20 PRIDE fundraising performance of Belle Reprieve at The Theatre Outlet.





by Earl and Donnie Snyder  
"HOLIDAY FUN AT MCCLV"

The Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley hosted a PDN event for the Lehigh Valley Rainbow Families Group this past December 16. This was the first Christmas time event for the group. Carol Stevens of MCCLV had approached us about hosting such an event. Of course we jumped at the idea! We really had no idea how great this would be!

From the start to finish the kids never even hinted at boredom. There were activities for various age groups. Lucas did best making reindeer food. He loves adding ingredients and mixing them up, he recently wanted to add some chili powder to our baked potatoes! Lucas is always around during activities such as housework and cooking. He wants to help out with everything, especially the vacuum cleaner.

The activities at the event included making Christmas cards, Christmas trees, manger scene placemats, and even decorating ginger bread houses. It was amazing to see how differently each house was decorated. Lucas basically put on the stickers for the placemat on top of each other. Won't he be surprised to look at that placemat in years to come?

The Christmas cards involved tracing, cutting and pasting materials. The Christmas trees included a cork, green pipe cleaners, and beads to decorate the tree. For the gingerbread houses there were crackers, pretzels, various kinds of candy and little ginger bread men, women and children so each child could include the members of their own unique families. Many of the children seemed to want to eat the cookies and candies rather than use them to decorate Good thing everything, including the glue, could be eaten.

Every activity station had well written instructions. Several members from MCCLV attended, which was a great help for the children and the parents. It was nice to be able to watch Lucas making something with someone else. After about an hour with these activities, we entered the sanctuary for story time, and the children were able to star in a short play.

The children all intently listened to the story read by Carol. The musical play involved the children donning some easy to put on costumes. There were enough costumes for all the children, however Lucas had other things on his mind. The characters included Jesus's Mother Mary, a donkey, a cow, a sheep, and a white dove. It was a terrific time for the kids to act a part in their own way.

Soon a special visitor was announced. Santa and his elf came for a visit. One little girl even had a list, just waiting to tell Santa. Santa made his rounds to all the children and invited them to come to see him. Santa had a coloring/activity book and a special ornament for each kid.

There were plenty of goodies for the parents as well. Hot and cold beverages were provided in addition to the candy and other sweets. Thanks to Trish Sullivan and Liz Bradbury for some spectacular cookies. Nobody could eat just one! Thanks to the MCCLV members for being there to help the participating families. Also we give a sincerely enormous thanks to Carol Stevens for doing most, if not all, of the planning of each event. This event could not have been any better! MCCLV volunteers are already planning another Children's Party for next year.

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## RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

### IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!!

Time for us to reflect on what was important to us last year and forge into the New Year, hopefully with enthusiasm. A positive attitude will make things easier. The bottom line is that we can't go back. If we made some mistakes in the past year, we try not to repeat them and change our course for the coming year.

Reflecting on the year, financially, it was a great opportunity to be in the market. Many sectors of the market had double-digit returns. The key was to be in the game. There is always an opportunity, but doing nothing will get you nowhere, fast.

A quick and easy fix to make your future more secure, is to take advantage of retirement plans, through work. If your employer offers you a match for putting a certain percentage in your plan, take advantage of it, consider it free money.

Secondly, diversification is the key. Don't put in more money than what your company will match. If your adjusted gross income allows you to fund a Roth IRA, direct the excess amount above your match toward a Roth IRA.

When it comes to retirement, become more savvy by educating yourself. Just setting 10% of your income aside for retirement may not be enough. Talk to people, preferably not just those hanging around the water cooler. Do some reading or exploring on the net, but be aware of sales schemes.

Whether you have earned a paycheck for 5 years or 30 years, the key is to make a change if you are not happy with where you are, financially. Unfortunately, financial skills are not taught in school. In my book, they should be. Who cares about economics, if you can't apply it to real life situations?

In the New Year, make a conscious effort to make some changes in your life. Learn from your mistakes and move on. If you spent too much on holiday gifts, focus on reducing the debt and make an effort not to succumb to the same evils next holiday season. All this really is within your control. Best of luck to you and your families in the New Year!

Denise McKelvey, CFS is a financial advisor located at 1045 S Cedar Crest Blvd. Please forward your e-mails to [denise.m.mckelvey@ampt.com](mailto:denise.m.mckelvey@ampt.com) or call 610.439.7000.

## GLBT FAMILY SEEKS 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN ALLENTOWN AREA

Jody Hoffer has asked What's That About to ask VGP readers for apartment information. Please call her at 484-358-9541 if you have a lead.





## STEVIE Z PIANO MAN

On Dec 31, Stevie plays the Steinway piano at Moyer Hall at Phoebe Home in Allentown for the 2PM Chapel service. On February 10, Stevie will be the pianist for the National Freedom to Marry Day service held at 7PM at MCCLV. Be sure to catch additional listings on his webpage at: <http://steviezpa.tripod.com>.

## GAY MEN'S CHORUS

**Annual Cabaret** -- The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus presents its annual cabaret on January 26 and 27 at the Stonewall, 28 N 10th St., Allentown. Explore the joys, trials and tribulations of love in this year's offering of "Love Songs and Other Fairy Tales." Tickets are \$15 and can be ordered by calling 610-366-3320. Doors open at 8 PM. For more information, contact the LVGMC via telephone or e-mail [information@lvgmc.org](mailto:information@lvgmc.org).

**Rehearsals resume January 2nd.** -- The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus resumes rehearsals on Tuesday, January 2 for their upcoming 2007 performances in January, March and June. The LVGMC meets every Tuesday at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 N. Center St., Bethlehem, PA. Rehearsals start at 7:30 PM. New members are always welcome. For more information contact the LVGMC at 610-366-3320 or at [information@lvgmc.org](mailto:information@lvgmc.org).

## CIVIC THEATRE PRESENTS "VINEGAR TOM"

The Civic Theatre of Allentown Resident Company presents 'Vinegar Tom,' a bewitching story of morality and betrayal, set in 17th century rural England. Performances are Jan. 19-21 in Theatre 514. Friday, Jan. 19, 8 pm, Saturday, Jan. 20, 8 pm, Sunday, Jan. 21, 2 pm. Ticket Prices: \$10, Students & Seniors: \$8. Civic Theatre of Allentown, Theatre 514, 514 N. 19th St., Allentown, PA., Box Office: (610) 432-8943 [www.civictheatre.com](http://www.civictheatre.com).

## THEATRE OUTLET PLAY AND PRIDE BENEFIT

**Belle Reprieve** By Bette Borne, Paul Shaw, Peggy Shaw and Lois Weaver, directed by Beth Schachter

This wildly funny and queerly tragic version of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* puts the famously gendered iconography created by Marlon Brando's and Vivien Leigh's performances as Stanley and Blanche at the center of the play. What happens when Stanley is played by a woman? And Blanche by a man? Come and find out how sexy-sad-funny-brilliant the whole ride on the 'Streetcar' can be... **January 18-28, 2007**

**LV Pride benefit performance** -- Saturday, January 20, 7:00 PM. Doors open at 5:30 for Significant Nosh, Winter Warming Wine and Beautiful Beer. Tickets are \$25. For more information: [pridelv.org](http://pridelv.org) or call Theatre Outlet, 610.820.9270. Tickets for this event are available now with LVPride.

# VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

**Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)**

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### Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

**Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley**  
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800  
**PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville** -- see meeting schedule  
**Pride House** at Muhlenberg College, Allentown  
**19th Street Theater** -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown  
**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley (UUCLV)**  
-- 424 Center St., Bethlehem  
**Haven GLBT Youth Group** at UUCLV  
**Theatre Outlet**, 930 N. 4th St. Allentown  
**Most Libraries in Berks County**  
**Planned Parenthood NEPA** 48 S. 4th St. Reading  
**Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County)**, Berks - Reading GSA  
**Allen HS GSA**, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA  
**Wilson High School GSA**, Berks AIDS Network  
**Berks Mens Social Group**, Kutztown University GLBT Center  
**Reading Area Community College GSA**  
48 S. 4th St., Reading

### Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

**Diamondz Nightclub** -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem  
**Stonewall Bar** -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown  
**Candida's** -- 247 N. 12th St. Allentown  
**Hava Java Coffee Shop** -- N. 19th St. Allentown  
**Fountainhead Books** -- 641 Penn Ave., West Reading  
**Dreamscape Comics** -- 310 W. Broad St., Bethlehem  
**The Woods Campground**  
**Red Star Saloon** -- 11 S. 10th St. Reading

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month, except the Pride - July issue which is earlier. The membership cycle of PA Diversity Network begins in January. Circulation: 1300-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500.

### To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

**Bloody Poetry** By Howard Brenton; directed by James Peck

The summer of 1816. Romantic poets Percy Bysshe Shelley and Lord George Byron, both fleeing scandal in England, tangle and wrangle from Switzerland to Italy, and along the way forge one of English literature's most extreme, passionate and tumultuous friendships. Staged to acclaim in London and New York, *Bloody Poetry* imagines the darkly lyric camaraderie of these radical poets. **February 8 - 18, 2007** To make reservations call 610.820.9440. For more information and to buy tickets go to [theatreoutlet.org](http://theatreoutlet.org).





# MEMBERSHIP FORM

10

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Senior dues (over 65) \$5  
☐ Individual dues \$15  
☐ Family dues \$20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.  
Make checks payable to PDN.

Additional contribution  
☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ other

## LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN**  
**PO BOX 22902**  
**LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

## BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

**PDN**  
**PO BOX 242**  
**MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

## PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

**PLEASE PAY YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES.** Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a one year -- ten issue subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County.

PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 100 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN occasionally receives grant money for projects, but mainly exists and functions financially on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2007 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

## CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group. It's free.

## BERKS AND LEHIGH VALLEY SERVICE PROVIDERS AND BUSINESSES

List your GLBT-friendly business on the PA Diversity Network web site. Go to the resource page at [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org) and just fill out the form on-line.

## PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S RESOURCE WEB SITE WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

is up in its new format. New content will be added in January. PDN thanks web weaver Melinda Kohn for all her web site work. Please bear with us!

## MONROE PFLAG CHANGE

Beginning in 2007, Monroe PFLAG meetings will be held every three months. The schedule will be: January 17, March 21, June 20, September 19, and December 19. Meetings will still be at the Hughes Library and the meetings will still be held from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m., but they have now been changed to a corner section in the Community Room.

## READING PRIDE DATE

The Reading Pride Celebration is scheduled for Sunday, July 15, 2007, at Centre Park in Reading.

**LEHIGH VALLEY TRANSEXUAL  
COALITION HAS SIGNED ON TO THE  
VGP STATEMENT OF  
NON-DISCRIMINATION.**

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## LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

**HALL OF FAME/SHAME** *By Liz Bradbury*

Roses to these Hall of Fame individuals or groups who have made some major new or unique impact on the local Lehigh Valley and Berks County GLBT community in 2006. Not listed in any particular order or hierarchy.

\*\*\***Earl David Ball** (Passage of Easton's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance) -- Earl led the effort in Easton for several years to pass Easton's new Anti-Discrimination Ordinance that protects minorities (including sexual orientation and gender identity) from employment, housing and public accommodation discrimination and he is now one of the new Easton Human Relations Commissioners.

\*\*\***Easton City Councilwoman Carole Hefley** (Passage of Easton's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance) -- Carole successfully introduced, sponsored and lobbied for the passage. And thanks to the rest of Easton City Council for voting in favor as well.

\*\*\***Lynn Rogers** (Passage of Easton's Anti-Discrimination Ordinance) -- For her constant support of the passage and for also being a Human Relations Commissioner of Easton.

\*\*\***PA Diversity Network** (Berks Community Foundation Grant Implementation) -- PDN wrote and received the grant, expanded the Valley Gay Press to 12 pages, developed a new mailing list for Berks County and circulated the paper to thousands of new people there.

\*\*\***Steve Black & PA-GALA** -- It may have been gay votes that swung the PA State House to Democratic control, and it was Steve who targeted those votes in Chester County. See the article on page 7.

\*\*\***PA Diversity Network** for developing the 100 Couples Photo Project -- The only project of its kind in the country and it's educating people about the lack of and need for same-sex marriage rights every day. Here's to all the (130) couples who have participated and all those who will participate in the future.

\*\*\***Rainbow Families** -- Kudos to Donnie and Earl Snyder for developing a new organization for GLBT families with children.

\*\*\***Spectrum in Reading** -- Reading Planned Parenthood wrote and received a grant from Berks Community Foundation to begin and run the first weekly GLBTA youth support group in Berks County.

\*\*\***NJ Courts and Legislature** for passing Civil Unions and state-wide civil rights protections for transgender people -- OK, it's not marriage but it is so much more than what we have in PA it makes us cheer and cry at the same time.

\*\*\***Any PA State Representative, State Senator or Congressperson who voted against the anti-gay Constitutional Amendments** -- including State Reps. Jennifer Mann (D), Robert Freeman (D), Steve Samuelson (D), TJ Rooney (D), Katherine Watson (R), Dan Santoni (D), Rich Grucela (D), and Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz.

\*\*\***Air Products & its GLBT employee group GLEE** for allowing the PDN Couples Photo Project to be shown there on National Coming Out Day.

\*\*\***Melinda Kohn** for developing the new PDN web site format.

\*\*\***Reading Pride Committee** -- for beginning the planning for Reading's GLBT Pride festival, scheduled for July 2007.

\*\*\***PPL, the Employee Group GLOW and Donna Cruciani** for arranging and allowing for the head of The Human Rights Campaign, Joe Solmonese to come and speak at the company and at Cedar Crest College.

\*\*\***Northampton Community College** (Chris Boes and the GLBT Students Union), Theatre Outlet (Kindall Goble) and Muhlenberg College Gallery (Kathy Burke, Marilyn Roberts, Adrian Shanker and the GSA) for allowing the PDN Photo Project to be shown at those venues.

\*\*\***Yvonne Oppenheimer, Melinda Kohn and NE PFLAG** -- for writing receiving and setting up a Berks Community Foundation grant for Berks library collections of pro-GLBTA books.

## TRISH'S COLUMN ©

\*\*\* **Sue Sneringer** -- for beginning her new column in the VGP.

\*\*\* **United Friends School in Quakertown** -- for signing on to the VGP non-discrimination statement and adding GLBT protections to their school policies.

\*\*\* **Jeff Faller, Robin Koch and Charlene Bergstresser** -- for creating a new PDN Bingo fundraiser.

\*\*\* **Every person in the local GLBTA community** who has paid their PA Diversity Network dues (and dues to other GLBTA groups as well). Your support makes everything happen!

And Roses to: Groups or individuals that deserve continuing praise for the work they have been doing on recurring events or on-going programs: **Haven** - Especially the work on the Haven Prom by Rachel Thompson. **Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley** - Especially interim boardmembers **Shawn Bausher, Steve Libby, Carol Chadwick** and others. **Theatre Outlet** - with **Kindall Goble & the TO Board** who saved TO from a dire fate, **Fabio Urbina** and **GLOSS** continuing to produce events every week. **LV Gay Men's Chorus** singing while searching for a new director. **GLORA**. Renaissance hosting events for the Trans community every month. **All VGP Columnists**, **Gene Kohl & Berks County Gay Men's Social Group**. **19th St. Theater** bringing us cutting edge movies all year. **FACT** - Fighting AIDS Continuously Together, still fighting after 20+ years. **Unitarian Universalist Church LV**. **Steve Libby and Gaydar Magazine**, **LV Transsexual Coalition**, **Rev. Beth Goudy** and all the volunteers at **Metropolitan Community Church** for exceptional programming especially FTMD actions, **PFLAGs** of Allentown, Monroe, Reading & Pottsville. And everyone else working daily for the LV GLBTA community. If we skipped you, we are sincerely sorry.

**Hall of Shame - Raspberries** to these individuals or groups who have done something (or not done something) this year that harms the local GLBT community.

\*\*\***State Senator Lisa Boscola** - (The 'Rick Santorum' Award) The only Democrat State Senator voting not only for the Constitutional Amendment, but voting to add anti-civil union language back into the Amendment and trying to get other Democrats to do so as well. We will never forget this, Lisa.

\*\*\***State Senator Pat Browne** (The 'Uncomfortable With the Truth' Award) -- Though he did vote to keep the anti-civil unions language out of the Constitutional Amendment, was unable to understand why GLBTA people would still be upset with him for voting in favor of the Constitutional Amendment banning same-sex marriage in PA. Pat was furious with me for telling the truth, when I sent out an email reporting that all LV State Senators had voted to pass the Amendment. Within the jaw-dropping diatribe of insults he emailed me, he insisted that when I said the anti-gay legislation was bigoted, that I had called him personally a bigot.

\*\*\***Legislators Who Voted for Constitutional Amendments** -- Including State Reps: **Keith McCall** (D), **Karen Beyer** (R), **Doug I don't Think Gays Have Demonstrated They Deserve Marriage** Reichley (R), **Paul Clymer** (R). State Senators: **Mike O'Pake** (D), **Pat Browne** (R), **Lisa Boscola** (D), **Stewart Greenleaf** (R), **Robert Wonderling** (R) and Congressmen: **Charlie Dent** (R) and **Tim Holden** (D). Its Un-American to use the Constitution to discriminate against a minority group.

\*\*\***Lehigh Valley Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, PPL and Air Products** -- for continuing to deny same-sex couples benefits.

\*\*\***The City of Bethlehem** -- for still not having an anti-discrimination ordinance.

\*\*\***WDIY, Godfrey Daniels, and the Old Allentown Preservation Association** -- for refusing to sign on to the VGP non-discrimination statement on the back of this paper.

\*\*\***People in the Community** -- who haven't paid their PDN dues or dues to other GLBT support organizations. Focus on the Family has millions, far right churches tithe 10%. Support your local GLBT organizations. They work for you every day.





# POP QUIZ 12

## True or False

1. Pennsylvania citizens can get a Civil Union in New Jersey.
2. Pennsylvania same-sex couples can get married in Canada.
3. Pennsylvania same-sex couples can get married in Massachusetts.
4. Advocates recommend that New Jersey same-sex couples who have Vermont Civil Unions get another Civil Union from New Jersey.
5. Israel now recognizes same-sex marriages performed in Canada.
6. South Africa now grants same-sex marriages.
7. Couples who have registered as domestic partners in California will automatically be recognized in New Jersey.
8. Civil Unions are recognized by the state of Pennsylvania.
9. Companies that give spousal health benefits in New Jersey will now be required to give benefits to civil unioned partners of employees.
10. Civil Unions grant Federal Rights.

1 T 2 T 3 F 4 T 5 T 6 T 7 F 8 F 9 T 10 F

## QUOTE #3

"No reputable media outlet should continue using Focus on the Family as a resource because they are chronically dishonest and lack credibility," said Truth Wins Out Executive Director Wayne Besen. "James Dobson should start to wonder if there is something inherently wrong with his stance on gay issues if the only way he can support his positions is outright lying."

Israel's top court has ruled that same-sex marriages from other countries must be registered and treated as valid in Israel.

## VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

### "Across An Untried Sea" by Julia Markus, Knopf, \$27.95

This scholarly work examines the interrelated lives and relationships of renowned women of the mid-19th century. Focusing particularly on the popular American actress Charlotte Cushman and Jane Welsh Carlyle of Scotland, the wife of Thomas Carlyle. These women and their deep commitments, lusts and relationships with other renowned women artists, writers, and expatriates make fascinating reading, particularly if the reader is already familiar with the key characters. For example, many students in women's art history courses learn about sculptor Harriet Hosmer's work, but few learn she was a joyful lesbian who, according to Markus, spent as much time chasing women as she did making marble figures.

The circumstances of people's lives are important to their accomplishments, but gay and lesbian lives and loves are usually omitted from the historical record. This book fills in some of the gaps.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

## PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Rainbow Families

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Durr & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theatre Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Haskalah

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

United Friends School Quakertown

LV Transsexual Coalition

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

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## QUOTE #1

"...Finally, there is nothing in my research that would lead you to draw the stated conclusions you did in the Time article. My work in no way suggests same-gender families are harmful to children or can't raise these children to be as healthy and well adjusted as those brought up in traditional households. I trust that this will be the last time my work is cited by Focus on the Family." -- New York University, Professor Carol Gilligan, PhD, slamming far right Time Mag columnist James Dobson

## QUOTE #2

"I don't know if you report Anniversaries or not, if you do you can inform your readers that January 23rd William and I will be celebrating our 26th year together. We both hope you have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR....David/Will" -- email from Photo Project Couple: David Moyer and William Klopp

Distelfink © 07 by Ruby Zebu "Important Research"

According to an Australian study-

"Percentage of women who have an orgasm during sex with a man: 69."

"Percentage who do during sex with another woman: 76."



yay team!!!

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG